(d) whether Government would take corrective action to improve the marketing avenues for the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Question does not arise.

Organic farming

540. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking some steps to develop organic farming in different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of cultivated area in different States under organic farming till 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is implementing a Central Sector Scheme, National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) for production, promotion, certification and market development of organic farming in the country, wherein financial assistance is being provided for the capacity building through service providers, setting up of organic input production units of fruits/vegetables waste compost, bio-fertilizers and Vermiculture hatcheries, promotion of organic farming through training programme, field demonstration, setting up of model organic farms and market development.

Government is also implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in the country from 2005-06 under which promotion of organic farming has been included as one of the components and financial assistance is being provided for organic cultivation of horticultural crops, setting up of vermi compost units and for organic farming certification.

In addition, Agriculture and processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce and Industry is promoting export of organic products and implementing National programme for Organic Production (NPOF). Under the Scheme financial assistance is being provided to its registered exporters for Market Development, Infrastructure Development, Quality Development, R&D and transport assistance.

(c) The total certified area under organic farming in the country is 3.12 lakh hectares. The State-wise area is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

State-wise Certified area under organic farming in the country

Sl. No.	State	Certified Area (Hectares)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5561.17
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	65.87
3.	Assam	2526.61

1	2	3
4.	Bihar	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	279.16
6.	Delhi	3632.63
7.	Goa	4100.50
8.	Gujarat	7102.31
9.	Haryana	3382.54
10.	Himachal Pradesh	69.03
11.	J & K	32541.79
12.	Jharkhand	10.50
13.	Karnataka	8735.06
14.	Kerala	11631.93
15.	Manipur	913.68
16.	Maharashtra	41390.48
17.	Madhya Pradesh	87536.03
18.	Mizoram	0
19.	Meghalaya	0
20.	Nagaland	0
21.	Orissa	66625.42
22.	Punjab	347.60
23.	Rajasthan	15034.26
24.	Sikkim	274.82
25.	Tripura	0
26.	Tamil Nadu	3414.09
27.	Uttar Pradesh	5589.56
28.	Uttarakhand	3178.63
29.	West Bengal	7332.75
30.	Others	510.52
	TOTAL:	311786.94

Special plan to encourage production of pulses

†541. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government, keeping in view the shortage of pulses, is considering any special plan to encourage production of pulses in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of efforts being made by Government in this regard?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.